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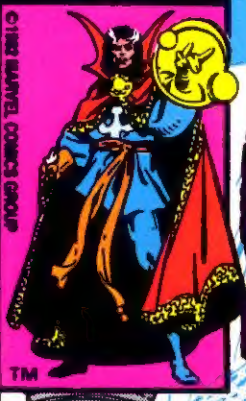

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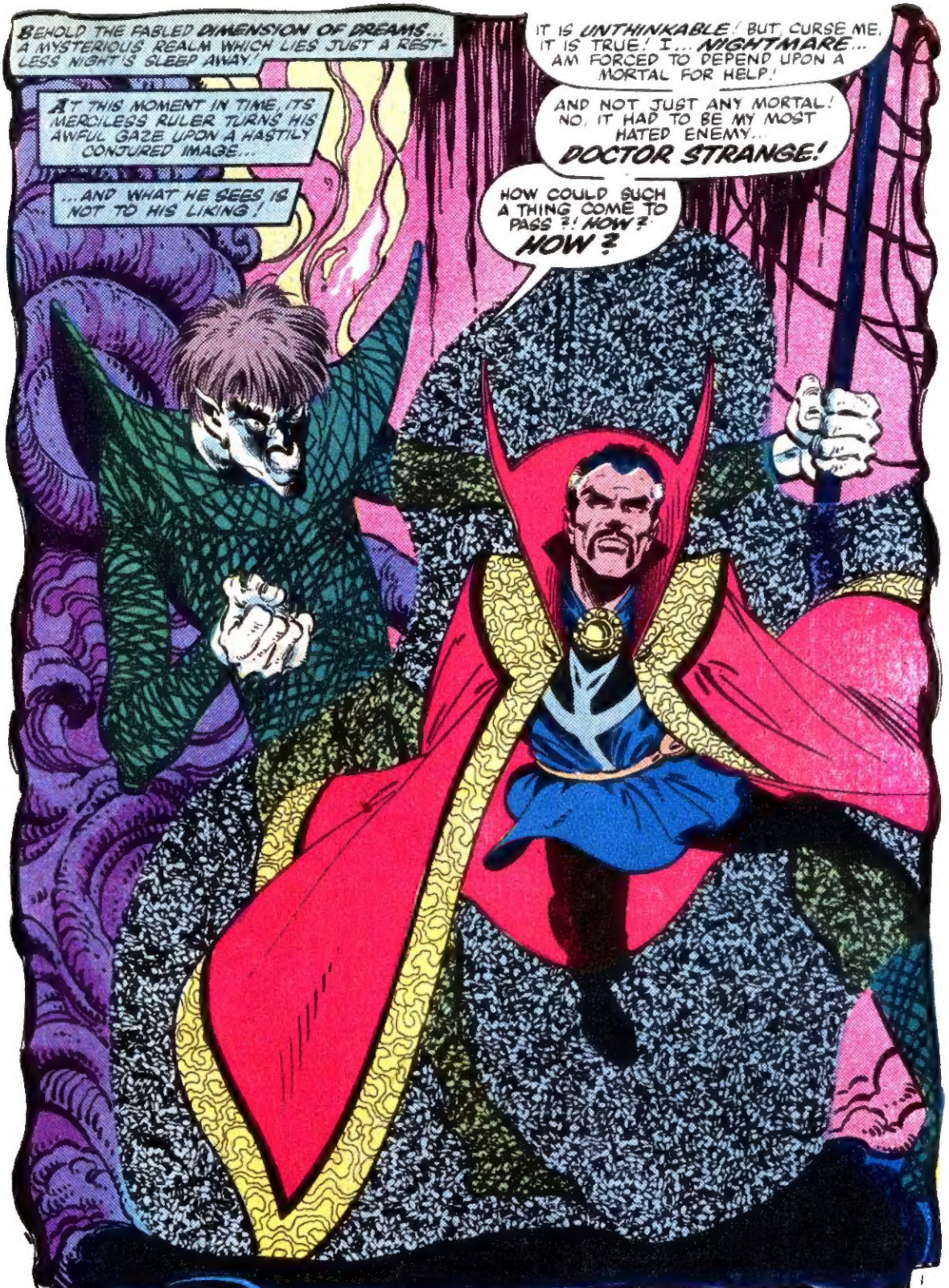
DOCTOR STRANGE®

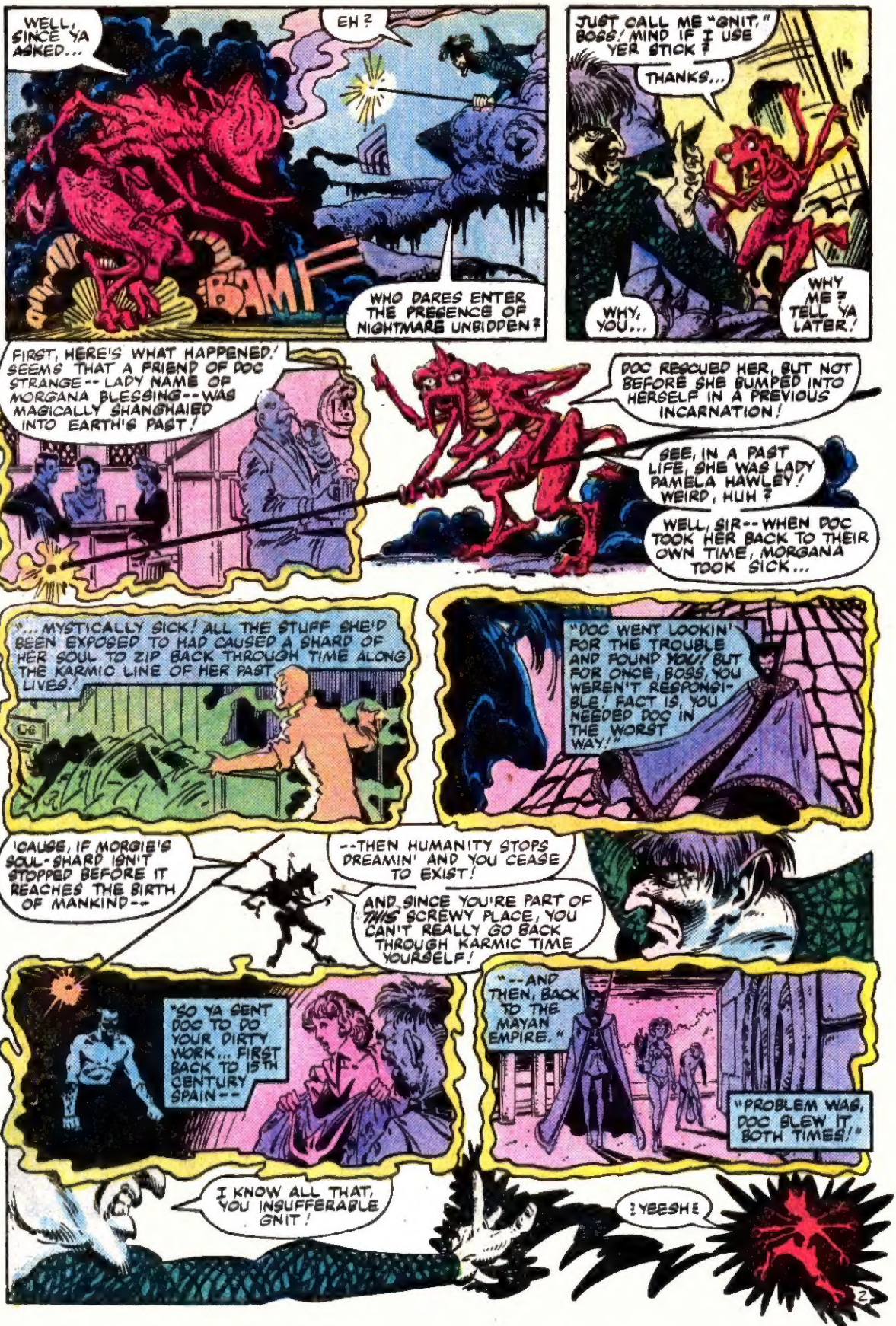
TM

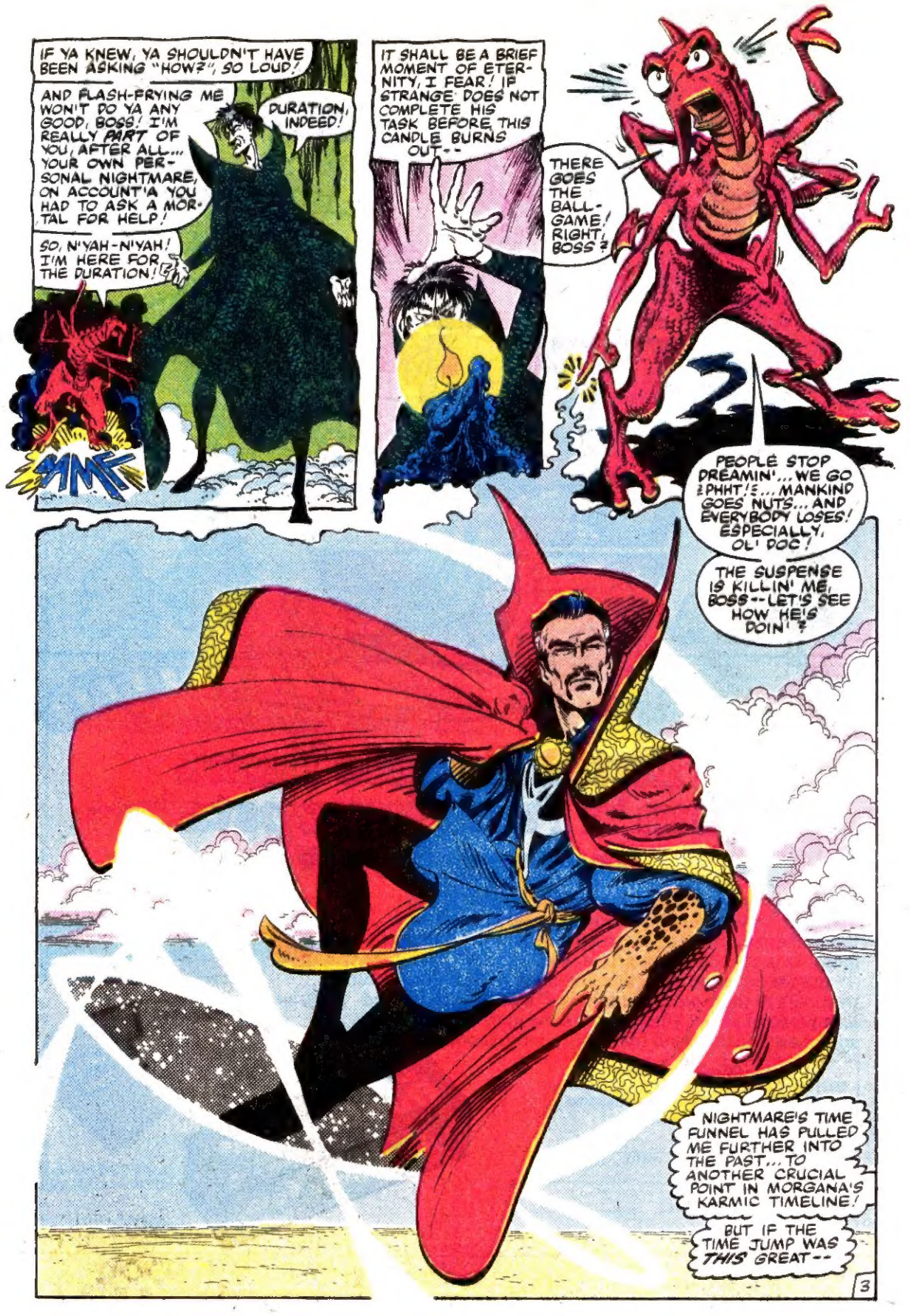
ROGERS AND AUSTIN

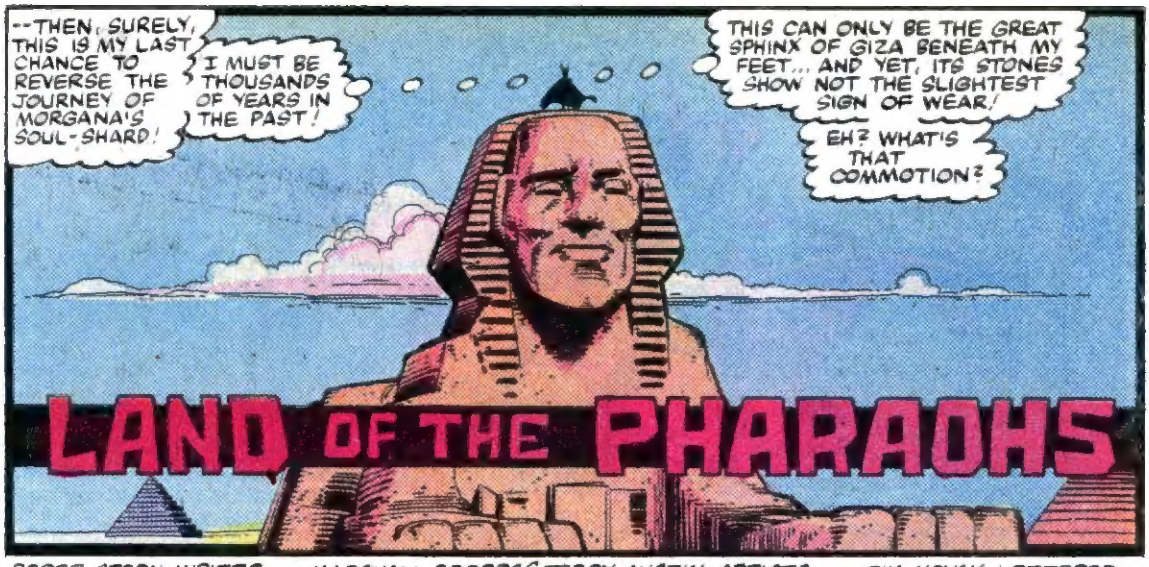
SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW...


BEHOLD THE FABLED DIMENSYON OF DREAMS... A MYSTERIOUS REALM WHICH LIES JUST A RESTLESS NIGHT'S SLEEP AWAY!
AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME, ITS MERCILESS RULER TURNS HIS AWFUL GAZE UPON A HASTILY CONJURED IMAGE...
...AND WHAT HE SEES IS NOT TO HIS LIKING!
IT IS UNTHINKABLE! BUT, CURSE ME, IT IS TRUE! I... NIGHTMARE... AM FORCED TO DEPEND UPON A MORTAL FOR HELP!
AND NOT JUST ANY MORTAL! NO, IT HAD TO BE MY MOST HATED ENEMY... DOCTOR STRANGE!
HOW COULD SUCH A THING COME TO PASS?! HOW? HOW?

DOCTOR STRANGE ™ **Vol. 1, No. 53, June, 1982.** (U.S.P.S. 426-910) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published bi-monthly. Copyright© 1982 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. **Price 60c per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate $7.20 for 12 issues. Canada, $8.20. Foreign, $9.20.** Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. DOCTOR STRANGE (including all prominent characters featured in the issue) and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. Postmaster: Send address changes to Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.


WELL, SINCE YA ASKED...
EH?
BAM F
WHO DARES ENTER THE PRESENCE OF NIGHTMARE UNBIDDEN?
JUST CALL ME "GNIT," BOSS! MIND IF I USE YER STICK?
THANKS...
WHY, YOU...
WHY ME? TELL YA LATER!
FIRST, HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED! SEEMS THAT A FRIEND OF DOC STRANGE -- LADY NAME OF MORGANA BLESSING -- WAS MAGICALLY SHANGHAIED INTO EARTH'S PAST!
DOC RESCUED HER, BUT NOT BEFORE SHE BUMPED INTO HERSELF IN A PREVIOUS INCARNATION!
SEE, IN A PAST LIFE, SHE WAS LADY PAMELA HAWLEY! WEIRD, HUH?
WELL, SIR -- WHEN DOC TOOK HER BACK TO THEIR OWN TIME, MORGANA TOOK SICK...
"... MYSTICALLY SICK! ALL THE STUFF SHE'D BEEN EXPOSED TO HAD CAUSED A SHARD OF HER SOUL TO ZIP BACK THROUGH TIME ALONG THE KARMIC LINE OF HER PAST LIVES!
"DOC WENT LOOKIN' FOR THE TROUBLE AND FOUND YOU! BUT FOR ONCE, BOSS, YOU WEREN'T RESPONSIBLE! FACT IS, YOU NEEDED DOC IN THE WORST WAY!"
'CAUSE, IF MORGIE'S SOUL-SHARD ISN'T STOPPED BEFORE IT REACHES THE BIRTH OF MANKIND --
--THEN HUMANITY STOPS DREAMIN' AND YOU CEASE TO EXIST!
AND SINCE YOU'RE PART OF THIS SCREWY PLACE, YOU CAN'T REALLY GO BACK THROUGH KARMIC TIME YOURSELF!
"SO YA SENT DOC TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK... FIRST BACK TO 15TH CENTURY SPAIN --
"-- AND THEN, BACK TO THE MAYAN EMPIRE."
"PROBLEM WAS, DOC SLEW IT BOTH TIMES!"
I KNOW ALL THAT, YOU INSUFFERABLE GNIT!
YEESHE

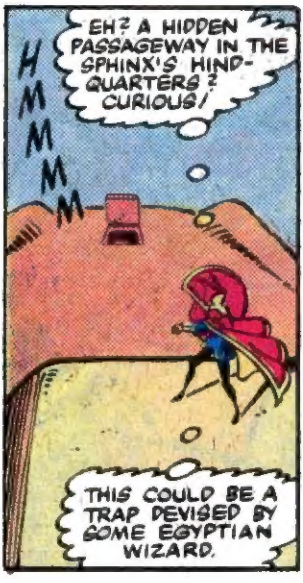

IF YA KNEW, YA SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ASKING "HOW?", SO LOUD!
AND FLASH-FRYING ME WON'T DO YA ANY GOOD, BOSS! I'M REALLY PART OF YOU, AFTER ALL... YOUR OWN PERSONAL NIGHTMARE, ON ACCOUNT'A YOU HAD TO ASK A MORTAL FOR HELP!
DURATION, INDEED!
SO, N'YAH-N'YAH! I'M HERE FOR THE DURATION!
MMF
IT SHALL BE A BRIEF MOMENT OF ETERNITY, I FEAR! IF STRANGE DOES NOT COMPLETE HIS TASK BEFORE THIS CANDLE BURNS OUT--
THERE GOES THE BALL-GAME, RIGHT, BOSS?
PEOPLE STOP DREAMIN'... WE GO PHHT!S... MANKIND GOES NUTS... AND EVERYBODY LOSES! ESPECIALLY, OL' DOC!
THE SUSPENSE IS KILLIN' ME, BOSS--LET'S SEE HOW HE'S DOIN'?
NIGHTMARE'S TIME FUNNEL HAS PULLED ME FURTHER INTO THE PAST... TO ANOTHER CRUCIAL POINT IN MORGANA'S KARMIC TIMELINE!
BUT IF THE TIME JUMP WAS THIS GREAT--
3

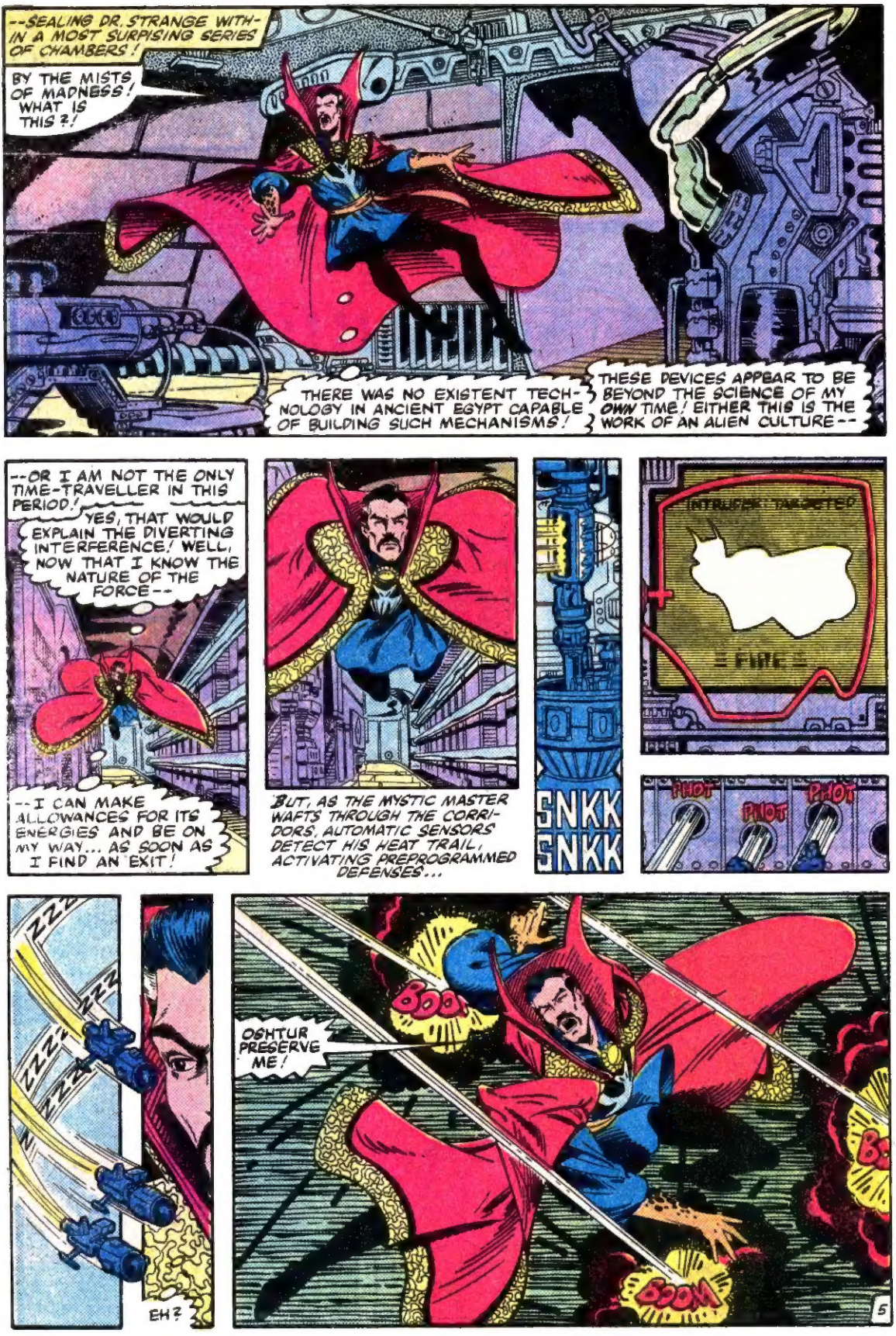

--THEN, SURELY, THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE TO REVERSE THE JOURNEY OF MORGANA'S SOUL-SHARD!
I MUST BE THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN THE PAST!
THIS CAN ONLY BE THE GREAT SPHINX OF GIZA BENEATH MY FEET... AND YET, ITS STONES SHOW NOT THE SLIGHTEST SIGN OF WEAR!
EH? WHAT'S THAT COMMOTION?
LAND OF THE PHARAOHS

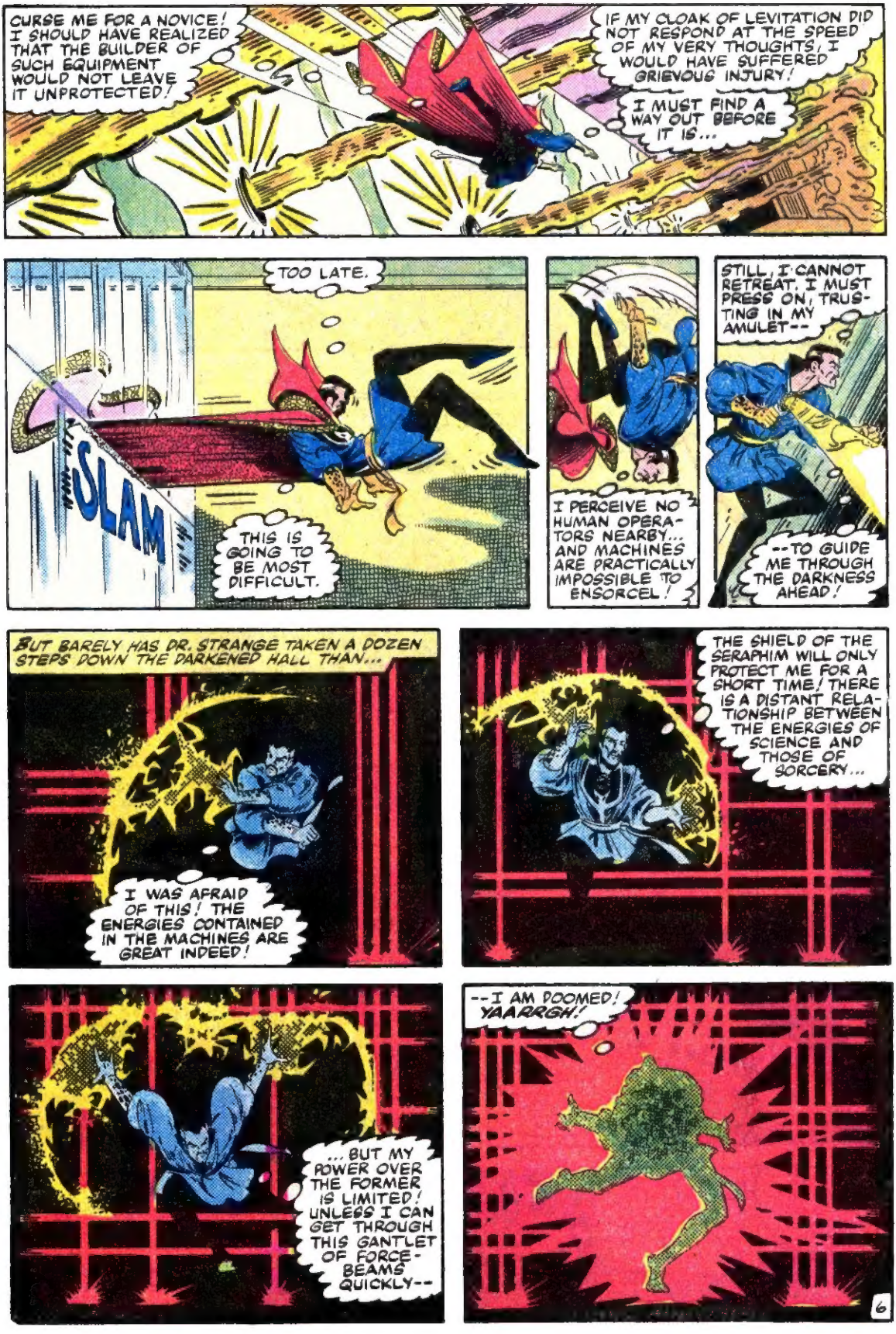
ROGER STERN, WRITER MARSHALL ROGERS & TERRY AUSTIN, ARTISTS JIM NOVAK, LETTERER
BOB SHAREN, COLORIST ALLEN MILGROM, EDITOR JIM SHOOTER, CHIEF STAN LEE, PRESENTER EMERITUS

BY HOGGOTH! A VAST ARMY MARCHES FORTH FROM THAT WALLED FORTRESS! COULD ONE OF MORGANA'S PAST SELVES BE AMONG THAT HORDE?
IF SO, WHY DID I NOT APPEAR IN THEIR MIDST?

WHY AM I SO REMOVED FROM ANY HUMAN BEINGS? NIGHTMARE'S TIME PROBE HAS SO FAR DEPOSITED ME WITHIN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO MORGANA'S PREVIOUS INCARNATIONS!
WHEN I EMERGED IN THIS TIME, I COULD HAVE SWORN I FELT SOME MANNER OF LOCALIZED INTERFERENCE! I WONDER--!
YES! BY THE LIGHT OF AGAMOTTO, MY AMULET REVEALS AN ARCANE FORCE COMING FROM WITHIN THE SPHINX ITSELF!

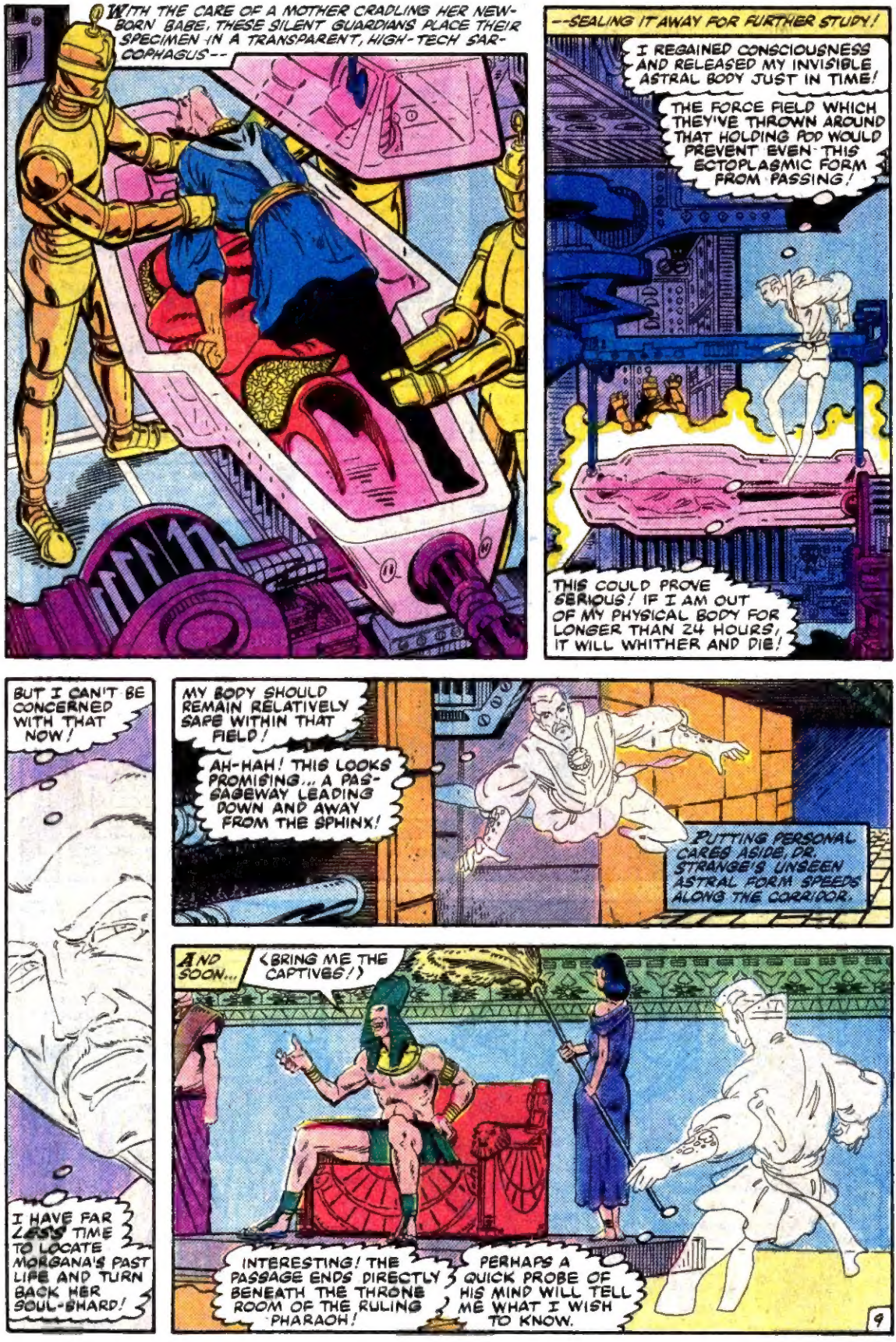


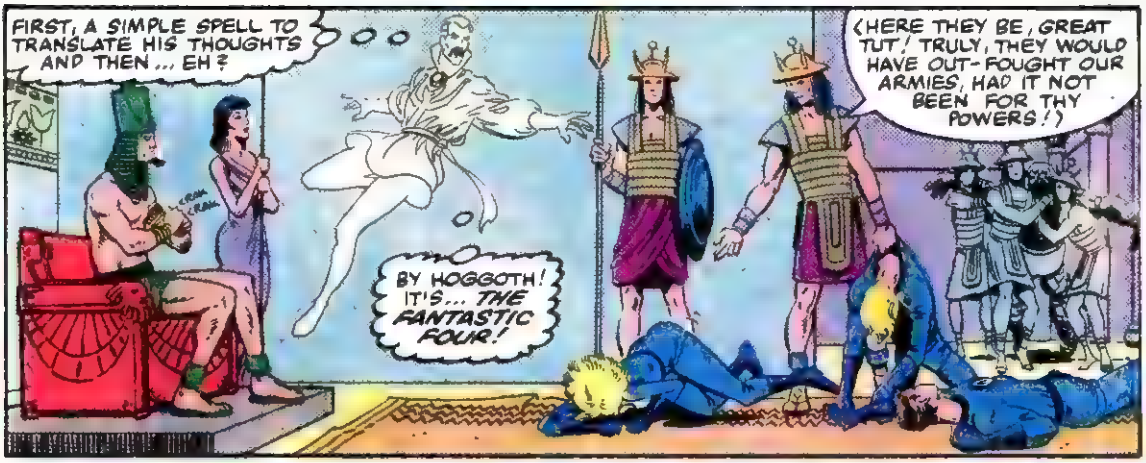

--SEALING DR. STRANGE WITHIN A MOST SURPRISING SERIES OF CHAMBERS!
BY THE MISTS OF MADNESS! WHAT IS THIS?!
THERE WAS NO EXISTENT TECHNOLOGY IN ANCIENT EGYPT CAPABLE OF BUILDING SUCH MECHANISMS!
THESE DEVICES APPEAR TO BE BEYOND THE SCIENCE OF MY OWN TIME! EITHER THIS IS THE WORK OF AN ALIEN CULTURE--
--OR I AM NOT THE ONLY TIME-TRAVELLER IN THIS PERIOD!
YES, THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE DIVERTING INTERFERENCE! WELL, NOW THAT I KNOW THE NATURE OF THE FORCE--
--I CAN MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR ITS ENERGIES AND BE ON MY WAY... AS SOON AS I FIND AN EXIT!
BUT, AS THE MYSTIC MASTER WAFTS THROUGH THE CORRIDORS, AUTOMATIC SENSORS DETECT HIS HEAT TRAIL, ACTIVATING PREPROGRAMMED DEFENSES...
SNKK
SNKK
INTRUDER TARGETED
FIRE
PHOT
PHOT
PHOT
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
EH?
OSHTUR PRESERVE ME!
BOOM
BOOM
5

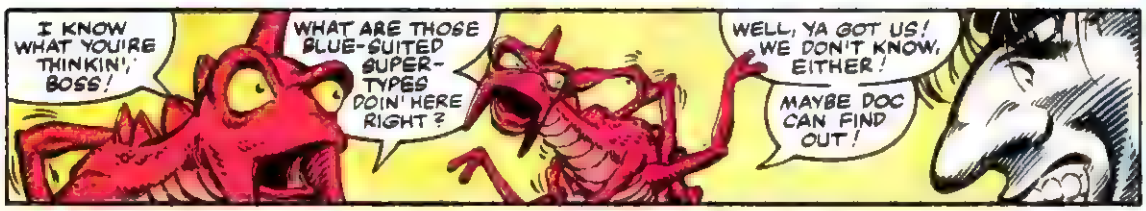

CURSE ME FOR A NOVICE! I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT THE BUILDER OF SUCH EQUIPMENT WOULD NOT LEAVE IT UNPROTECTED!
IF MY CLOAK OF LEVITATION DID NOT RESPOND AT THE SPEED OF MY VERY THOUGHTS, I WOULD HAVE SUFFERED GRIEVOUS INJURY!
I MUST FIND A WAY OUT BEFORE IT IS...
TOO LATE.
SLAM
THIS IS GOING TO BE MOST DIFFICULT.
I PERCEIVE NO HUMAN OPERATORS NEARBY... AND MACHINES ARE PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ENSORCEL!
STILL, I CANNOT RETREAT. I MUST PRESS ON, TRUSTING IN MY AMULET--
--TO GUIDE ME THROUGH THE DARKNESS AHEAD!
BUT BARELY HAS DR. STRANGE TAKEN A DOZEN STEPS DOWN THE DARKENED HALL THAN...
I WAS AFRAID OF THIS! THE ENERGIES CONTAINED IN THE MACHINES ARE GREAT INDEED!
THE SHIELD OF THE SERAPHIM WILL ONLY PROTECT ME FOR A SHORT TIME! THERE IS A DISTANT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ENERGIES OF SCIENCE AND THOSE OF SORCERY...
... BUT MY POWER OVER THE FORMER IS LIMITED! UNLESS I CAN GET THROUGH THIS GANTLET OF FORCE-BEAMS QUICKLY--
--I AM DOOMED! YAARRGH!
6

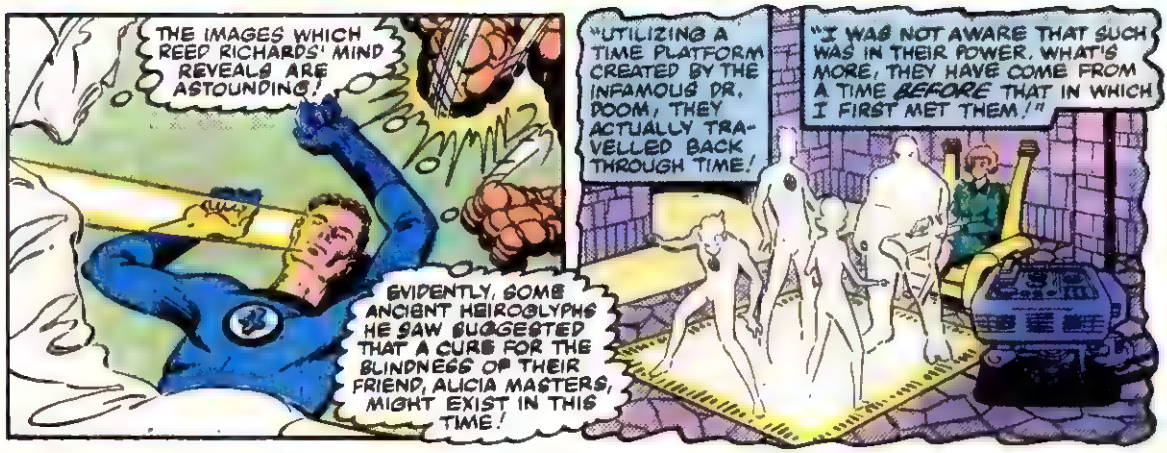
HE'S BEEN RENDERED UNCONSCIOUS! WHAT IS WRONG WITH STRANGE?!
HE WAS TAKEN OUT LIKE AN AMATEUR, WASN'T HE? I MEAN, THOSE ENERGY BEAMS WERE TOUGH... BUT IF HE'D BEEN ON HIS TOES, HE WOULDN'T HAVE LOST HIS CAPE!
YOU KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM, DON'T YA, BOSS? OBVIOUSLY, IT'S HIS SUB-CONSCIOUS! HE'S WORRIED ABOUT CLEA, HIS LOVER AND DISCIPLE!
REMEMBER? BEFORE MORGANA TOOK SICK, CLEA WAS IN A BOTHER ABOUT HER RELATIONSHIP WITH DOC... AND TOLD HIM SO!
"SEEMS THAT SHE'D BEEN IN MENTAL CONTACT WITH MORGANA'S PSYCHE--AND HAD DISCOVERED THAT THE LADY'S LOVE FOR DOC RIVALED HER OWN... AND THEN SOME!
"DOC TRIED TO REASSURE HER, BUT SHE TOOK A HIKE TO THINK THINGS OVER.
BLESSING
"WHEN THE TROUBLE STARTED, DOC TRIED TO PUT THE FLAP WITH CLEA OUTTA HIS MIND, BUT... WELL, HE IS A MAN, AFTER ALL."
I KNOW! BE STILL!
SMACK
WHOOPS! YA SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT!
PLOTZ
THERE, YA SATISFIED? NOW THERE'S TWO OF US!
WHERE WAS I? OH, YEAH... BEIN' A MAN, DOC IS MORE WORRIED ABOUT CLEA THAN HE REALIZES!
THAT'S RIGHT! BUT HIS WORRY HAS DOWNSHIFTED TO THE SUBCONSCIOUS LEVEL! NATURALLY, IT'S STILL AFFECTING HIS JUDGMENT AND PERFORMANCE!
AND IF HE'S THIS MESSED UP, IMAGINE THE STATE CLEA MUST BE IN!

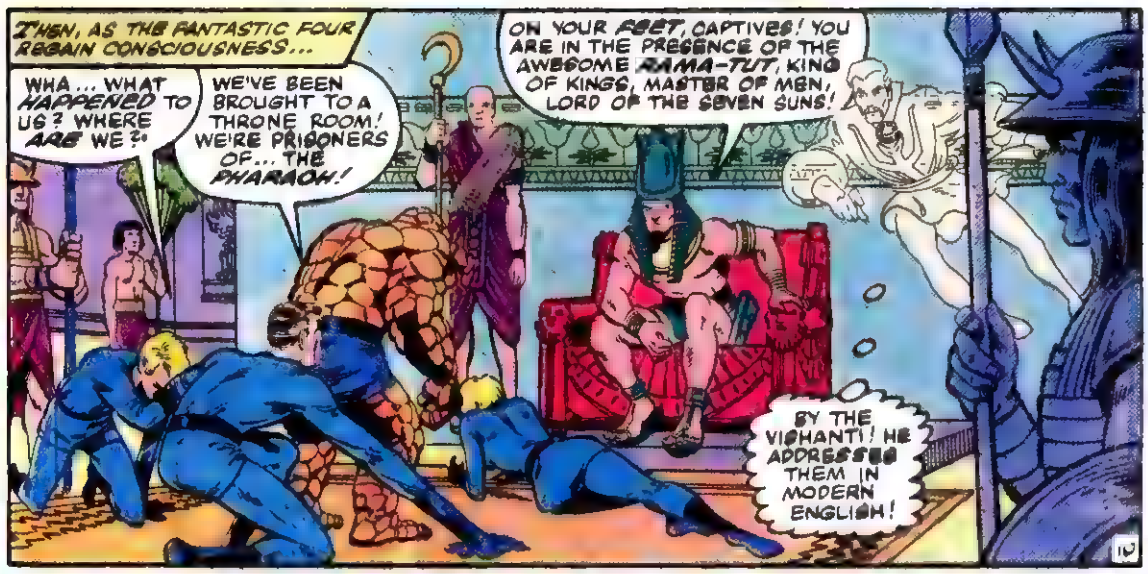
AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE GREENWICH VILLAGE TOWN-HOUSE OF DR. STRANGE...
CLEA! HI, I DIDN'T HEAR YOU COME IN!
I USED THE BACK DOOR, SARA. HAVE YOU BEEN GOING OVER STEPHEN'S FINANCES AGAIN?
YEP! SARA WOLFE, NEO-BUSINESS MANAGER HAS FINALLY DONE IT! I'VE FOUND THREE NEW TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR THE GOOD DOCTOR!
HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN--!
CRYING? I HAVE... AND WALKING... AND THINKING.
ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP? I KNOW YOU WERE BORN IN AN ALIEN DIMENSION, BUT WE'RE STILL BOTH WOMEN. UH... AREN'T WE?
SARA, HAVE YOU EVER DISCOVERED THAT SOMEONE ELSE'S LOVE WAS GREATER THAN YOUR OWN?
HUNDREDS OF TIMES! BUT... DON'T TELL ME YOU AND DOC--!
OUR LOVE IS UNCHANGED, BUT ANOTHER LOVES HIM MORE THAN I...
...WITH A LOVE WHICH SEEMS THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD. IT IS QUITE BEYOND MY KEN.
WOW! THAT... UH... DOES SOUND LIKE MORE THAN A MINOR INFATUATION.
FOR NOW, I MUST MEDITATE. I SHALL NEED STRENGTH FOR WHAT IS TO COME.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
AND, WHILE THE SILVER-HAIRED SORCERESS CLOSETS HERSELF AWAY--
--SEVERAL MILLENIA IN THE PAST, HER LOVER IS CAREFULLY MOVED THROUGH THE SECRET HALLS OF THE SPHINX BY A CREW OF SPECIALLY-PROGRAMMED GOLDEN AUTOMATONS!
8

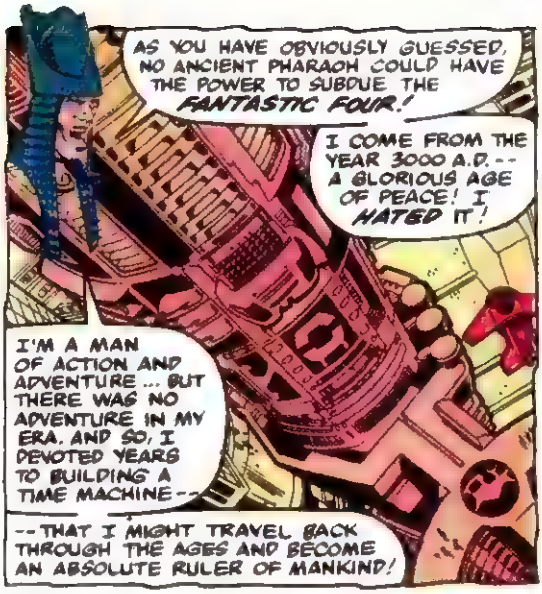

WITH THE CARE OF A MOTHER CRADLING HER NEWBORN BABE, THESE SILENT GUARDIANS PLACE THEIR SPECIMEN IN A TRANSPARENT, HIGH-TECH SARCOPHAGUS--
--SEALING IT AWAY FOR FURTHER STUDY!
I REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS AND RELEASED MY INVISIBLE ASTRAL BODY JUST IN TIME!
THE FORCE FIELD WHICH THEY'VE THROWN AROUND THAT HOLDING POD WOULD PREVENT EVEN THIS ECTOPLASMIC FORM FROM PASSING!
THIS COULD PROVE SERIOUS! IF I AM OUT OF MY PHYSICAL BODY FOR LONGER THAN 24 HOURS, IT WILL WHITHER AND DIE!
BUT I CAN'T BE CONCERNED WITH THAT NOW!
MY BODY SHOULD REMAIN RELATIVELY SAFE WITHIN THAT FIELD!
AH-HAH! THIS LOOKS PROMISING... A PASSAGEWAY LEADING DOWN AND AWAY FROM THE SPHINX!
PUTTING PERSONAL CARES ASIDE, DR. STRANGE'S UNSEEN ASTRAL FORM SPEEDS ALONG THE CORRIDOR.
I HAVE FAR LESS TIME TO LOCATE MORGANA'S PAST LIFE AND TURN BACK HER SOUL-SHARD!
AND SOON...
(BRING ME THE CAPTIVES!)
INTERESTING! THE PASSAGE ENDS DIRECTLY BENEATH THE THRONE ROOM OF THE RULING PHARAOH!
PERHAPS A QUICK PROBE OF HIS MIND WILL TELL ME WHAT I WISH TO KNOW.
9


FIRST, A SIMPLE SPELL TO TRANSLATE HIS THOUGHTS AND THEN... EH?
BY HOGGOTH! IT'S... THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
(HERE THEY BE, GREAT TUT,' TRULY, THEY WOULD HAVE OUT-FOUGHT OUR ARMIES, HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THY POWERS!)


I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKIN', BOSS!
WHAT ARE THOSE BLUE-SUITED SUPER-TYPES DOIN' HERE RIGHT?
WELL, YA GOT US! WE DON'T KNOW, EITHER!
MAYBE DOC CAN FIND OUT!

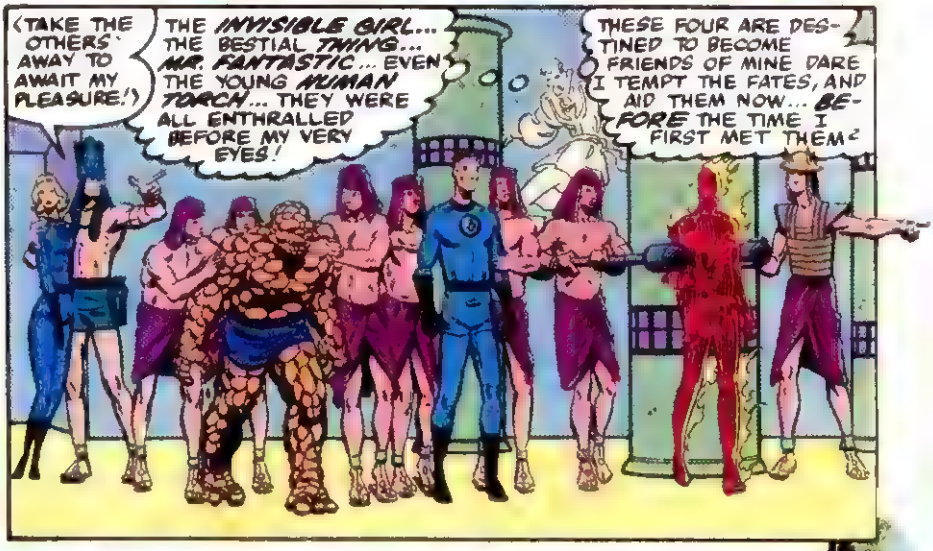

THE IMAGES WHICH REED RICHARDS' MIND REVEALS ARE ASTOUNDING!
EVIDENTLY, SOME ANCIENT HEIROGLYPHS HE SAW SUGGESTED THAT A CURE FOR THE BLINDNESS OF THEIR FRIEND, ALICIA MASTERS, MIGHT EXIST IN THIS TIME!
"UTILIZING A TIME PLATFORM CREATED BY THE INFAMOUS DR. DOOM, THEY ACTUALLY TRAVELLED BACK THROUGH TIME!
"I WAS NOT AWARE THAT SUCH WAS IN THEIR POWER. WHAT'S MORE, THEY HAVE COME FROM A TIME BEFORE THAT IN WHICH I FIRST MET THEM!"

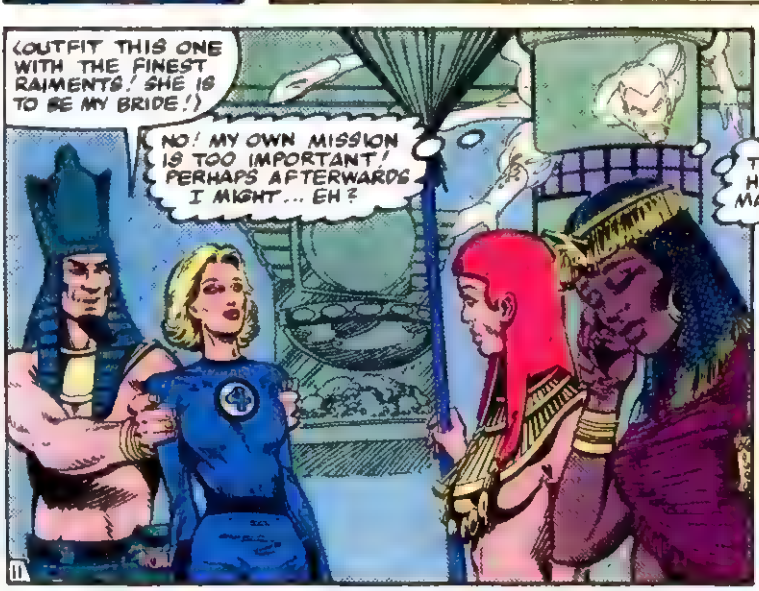

WHEN, AS THE FANTASTIC FOUR REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS...
WHA... WHAT HAPPENED TO US? WHERE ARE WE?
WE'VE BEEN BROUGHT TO A THRONE ROOM! WE'RE PRISONERS OF... THE PHARAOH!
ON YOUR FEET, CAPTIVES! YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE AWESOME RAMA-TUT, KING OF KINGS, MASTER OF MEN, LORD OF THE SEVEN SUNS!
BY THE VISHANTI! HE ADDRESSES THEM IN MODERN ENGLISH!


AS YOU HAVE OBVIOUSLY GUESSED, NO ANCIENT PHARAOH COULD HAVE THE POWER TO SUBDUE THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
I COME FROM THE YEAR 3000 A.D.-- A GLORIOUS AGE OF PEACE! I HATED IT!
I'M A MAN OF ACTION AND ADVENTURE ... BUT THERE WAS NO ADVENTURE IN MY ERA. AND SO, I DEVOTED YEARS TO BUILDING A TIME MACHINE--
--THAT I MIGHT TRAVEL BACK THROUGH THE AGES AND BECOME AN ABSOLUTE RULER OF MANKIND!

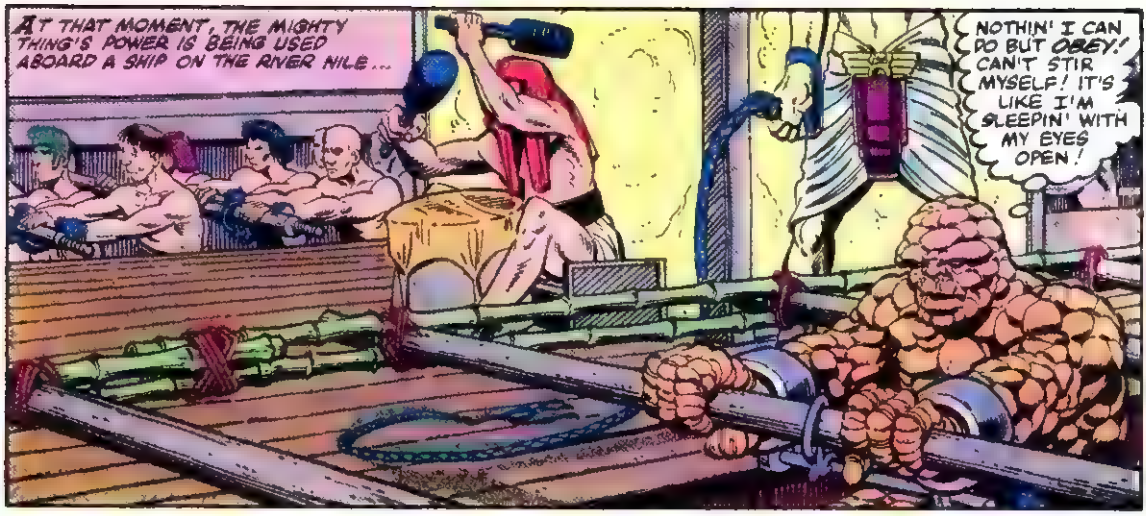
AND NOW, I'LL SHOW YOU THE POWER WHICH DEFEATED YOU.. MY ULTRA-DIODE RAY!
ITS LOW-INTENSITY BEAM CAN SAP YOUR WILLS, MAKING YOU MY SLAVES UNTIL I DECIDE TO REPEAT THE TREATMENT AND FREE YOU.

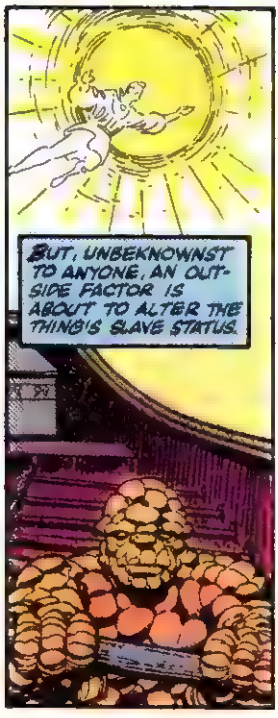
AND IT SHALL NEVER BE MY INTENTION TO FREE YOU!
YOU, SUSAN STORM, SHALL REMAIN AT MY SIDE YOU HAVE TRAVELLED ALL THESE CENTURIES THROUGH TIME... YOU SHALL BE REWARDED BY BECOMING MY QUEEN!

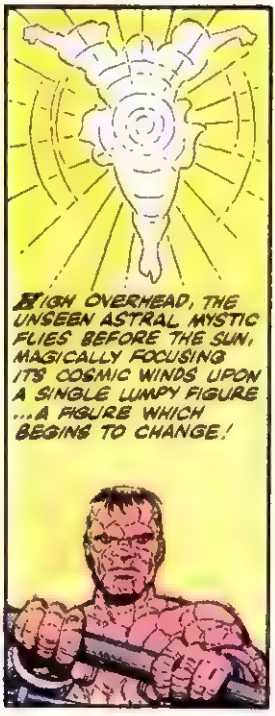

(TAKE THE OTHERS AWAY TO AWAIT MY PLEASURE!)
THE INVISIBLE GIRL... THE BESTIAL THING... MR. FANTASTIC... EVEN THE YOUNG HUMAN TORCH... THEY WERE ALL ENTHRALLED BEFORE MY VERY EYES!
THESE FOUR ARE DESTINED TO BECOME FRIENDS OF MINE DARE I TEMPT THE FATES, AND AID THEM NOW... BEFORE THE TIME I FIRST MET THEM!

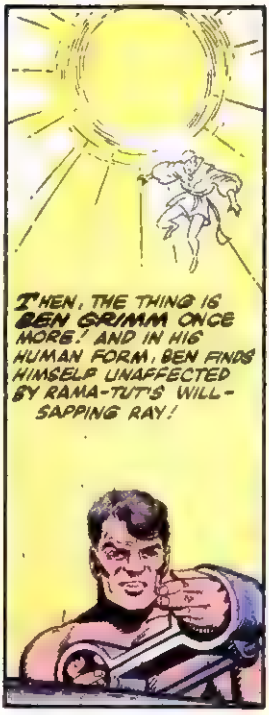

(OUTFIT THIS ONE WITH THE FINEST RAIMENTS! SHE IS TO BE MY BRIDE!)
NO! MY OWN MISSION IS TOO IMPORTANT! PERHAPS AFTERWARDS I MIGHT... EH?
THAT HANDMAIDEN!
SHE IS MORGANA BLESSING'S INCARNATION IN THIS TIME! I CAN SENSE IT!
BUT AS THE MYSTIC MASTER DRAWS CLOSER--

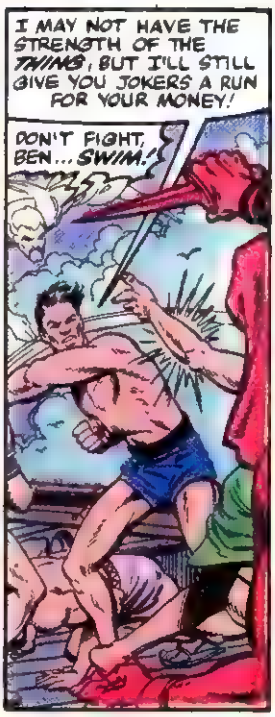
--BACK IN THE HIGH-TECH CHAMBERS OF THE SPHINX, A 30TH CENTURY ENCEPHALO-PROBE SWEEPS ACROSS THE DOCTOR'S PHYSICAL BODY...
MMMMMMMMM
...INADVERTANTLY TRIGGERING A PSYCHIC FEEDBACK WHICH NEARLY RIPS THE SORCERER'S ASTRAL FORM TO SHREDS!
LIKE A WOUNDED BIRD, HE FALLS.
A MINUTE PASSES... THEN THIRTY! FINALLY, OVER AN HOUR LATER...
UNNGH! TOOK... ALL OF MY CONCENTRATION TO KEEP MY ASTRAL SELF IN ONE PIECE. PAIN WAS EXCRUTIATING...
... BUT IT'S FINALLY STOPPED.
MUSTN'T TARRY ANOTHER INSTANT, THOUGH! I MUST PULL MYSELF UP OUT OF THIS FLOOR--
"--AND FIND THAT HAND-MAIDEN!"
THERE SHE IS! SHE STANDS APART FROM THE OTHERS-- GOOD! A BRIEF SPELL OF REVELATION, AND THEN ONLY SHE SHALL SEE ME...
...NONE BUT SHE SHALL HEAR ME!
〈LITTLE ONE... DO NOT GRIEVE SO! IT ILL BECOMES YOU!〉
〈OH! WHO--?〉
〈SHH! BE STILL!〉
〈I AM BUT THE SHADE OF... A VISITOR... A VISITOR MUCH LIKE YOUR RAMA-TUT!〉
〈DO NOT BE SORROWFUL THAT THE PHARAOH HAS CHOSEN ANOTHER. THERE IS A GREATER DESTINY AWAITING YOU... A GREATER DUTY!〉
〈BUT TO FULFILL THAT DUTY, WE MUST FREE MY PHYSICAL FORM. THERE IS AN UNDERGROUND PASSAGE TO THE SPHINX--!〉
〈I-I KNOW OF IT. BUT ITS ENTRANCE IS GUARDED.〉
〈THEN I SHALL NEED CREATE A DIVERSION.〉
NE'ER HAVE I BEHELD ONE SUCH AS HIM!
HE MUST BE A GOD!
〈AWAIT ME AT THE PASSAGE. I SHALL BE THERE ANON!〉
12

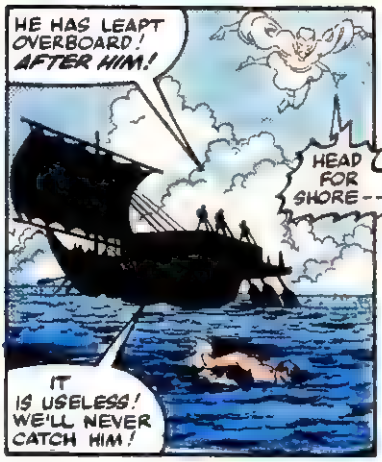

AT THAT MOMENT, THE MIGHTY THING'S POWER IS BEING USED ABOARD A SHIP ON THE RIVER NILE...
NOTHIN' I CAN DO BUT OBEY! CAN'T STIR MYSELF! IT'S LIKE I'M SLEEPIN' WITH MY EYES OPEN!

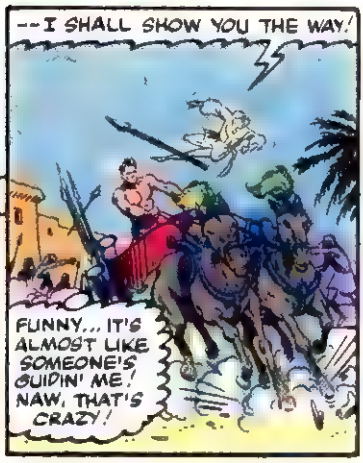

BUT, UNBEKNOWNST TO ANYONE, AN OUTSIDE FACTOR IS ABOUT TO ALTER THE THING'S SLAVE STATUS.

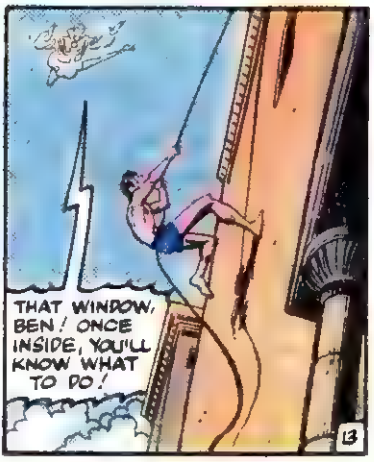

HIGH OVERHEAD, THE UNSEEN ASTRAL MYSTIC FLIES BEFORE THE SUN, MAGICALLY FOCUSING ITS COSMIC WINDS UPON A SINGLE LUMPY FIGURE ...A FIGURE WHICH BEGINS TO CHANGE!


THEN, THE THING IS BEN GRIMM ONCE MORE! AND IN HIS HUMAN FORM, BEN FINDS HIMSELF UNAFFECTED BY RAMA-TUT'S WILL-SAPPING RAY!

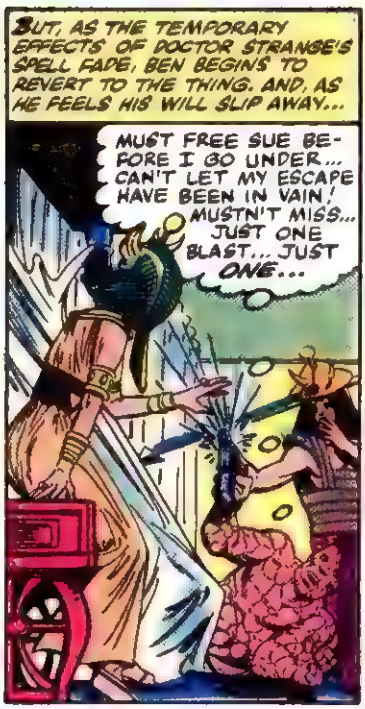

I MAY NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH OF THE THING, BUT I'LL STILL GIVE YOU JOKERS A RUN FOR YOUR MONEY!
DON'T FIGHT, BEN... SWIM!

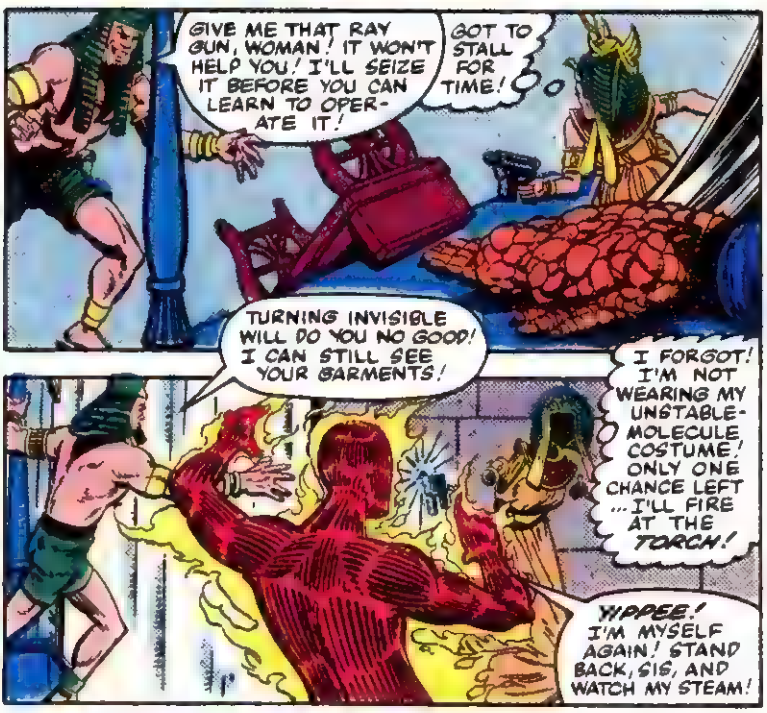

HE HAS LEAPT OVERBOARD! AFTER HIM!
HEAD FOR SHORE--
IT IS USELESS! WE'LL NEVER CATCH HIM!

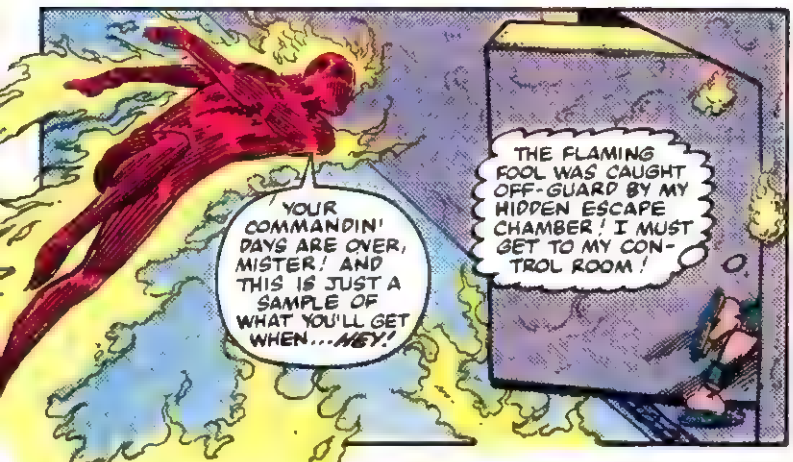

--I SHALL SHOW YOU THE WAY!
FUNNY... IT'S ALMOST LIKE SOMEONE'S GUIDIN' ME! NAW, THAT'S CRAZY!

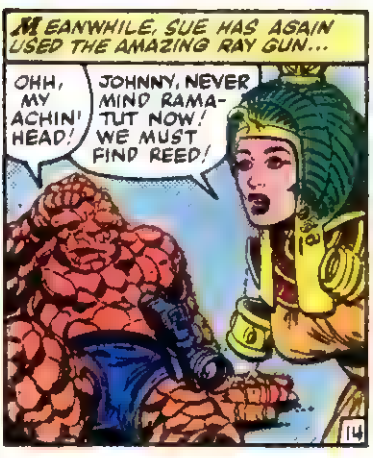

THAT WINDOW, BEN! ONCE INSIDE, YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO!

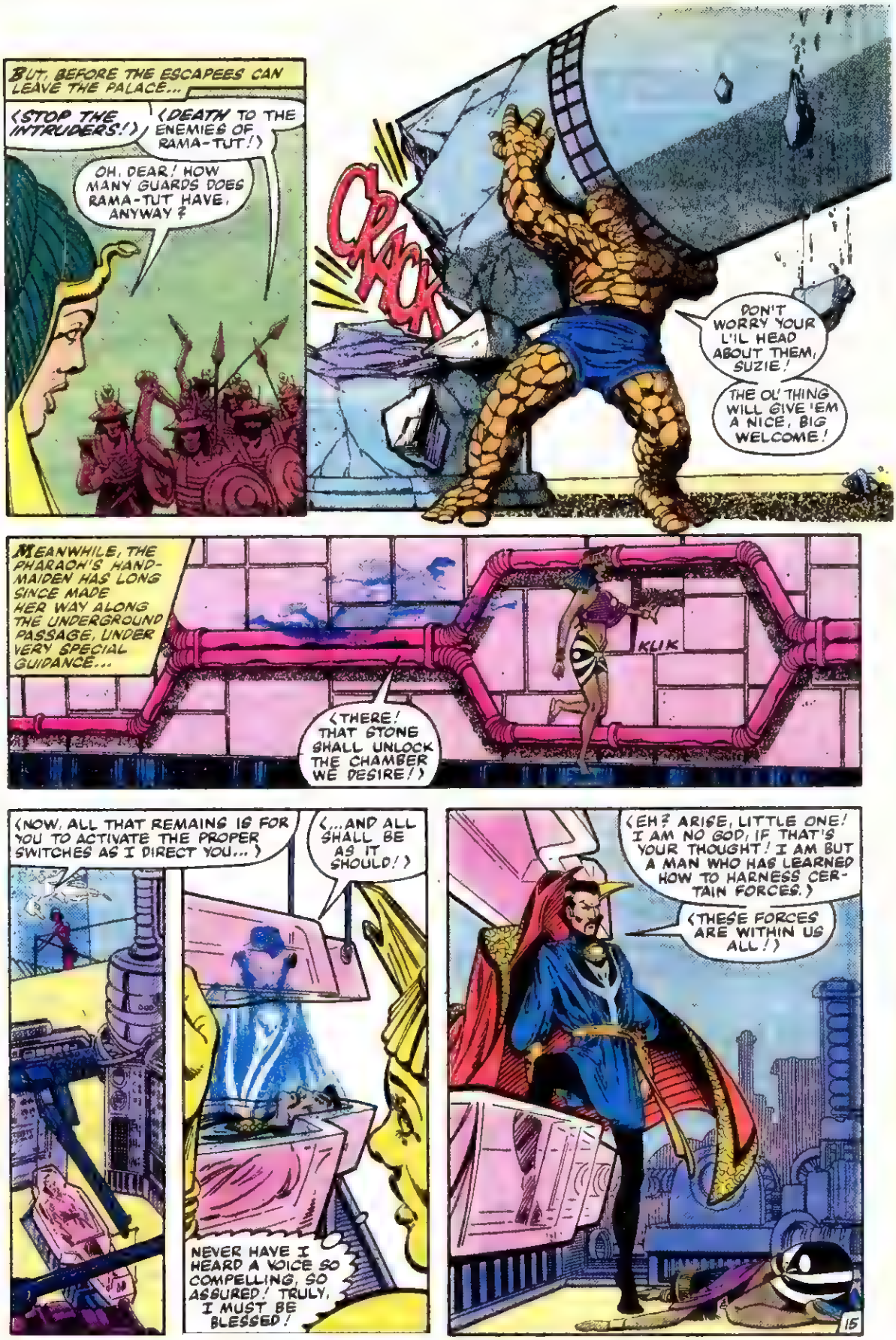
SHORTLY, IN THE THRONE ROOM OF RAMA-TUT...
THIS IS MADNESS! HERE I AM, FORCED TO ENTERTAIN RAMA-TUT, WHEN I'M AICHING TO ATTACK HIM... BUT I'M POWERLESS TO DO SO!
SIP YOUR NECTAR AND TOAST OUR LOVE, MY BRIDE-TO-BE, FOR SOON YOU SHALL BE QUEEN OF ALL THE NILE!
GUESS AGAIN, LOVER-BOY! NOW THAT I'VE GOT THIS GUN OF YOURS, THINGS ARE GONNA START POPPIN' AROUND HERE!

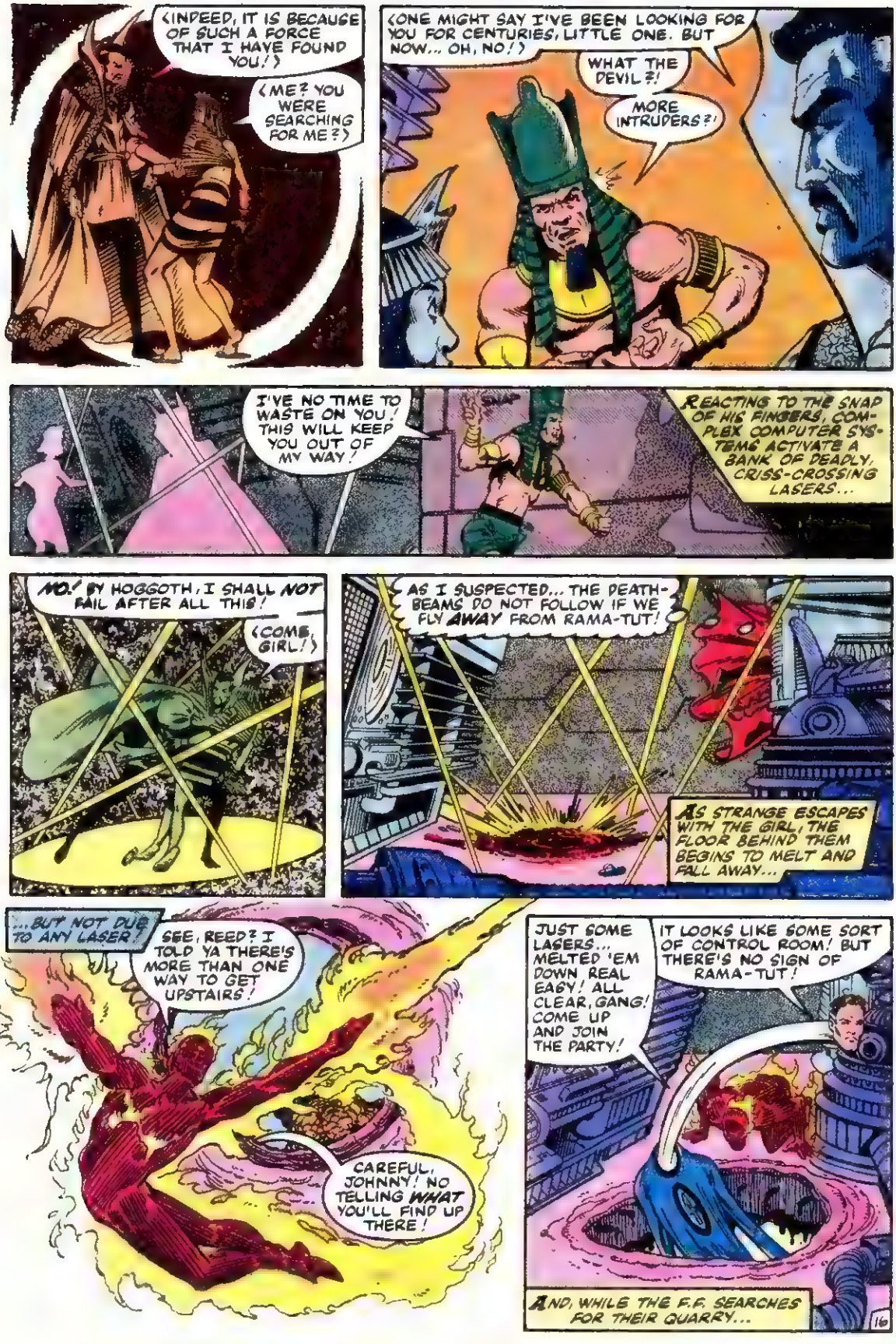

BUT, AS THE TEMPORARY EFFECTS OF DOCTOR STRANGE'S SPELL FADE, BEN BEGINS TO REVERT TO THE THING. AND, AS HE FEELS HIS WILL SLIP AWAY...
MUST FREE SUE BEFORE I GO UNDER... CAN'T LET MY ESCAPE HAVE BEEN IN VAIN! MUSTN'T MISS... JUST ONE BLAST... JUST ONE...


GIVE ME THAT RAY GUN, WOMAN! IT WON'T HELP YOU! I'LL SEIZE IT BEFORE YOU CAN LEARN TO OPERATE IT!
GOT TO STALL FOR TIME!
TURNING INVISIBLE WILL DO YOU NO GOOD! I CAN STILL SEE YOUR GARMENTS!
I FORGOT! I'M NOT WEARING MY UNSTABLE-MOLECULE COSTUME! ONLY ONE CHANCE LEFT ...I'LL FIRE AT THE TORCH!
YIPPEE! I'M MYSELF AGAIN! STAND BACK, SIS, AND WATCH MY STEAM!


YOUR COMMANDIN' DAYS ARE OVER, MISTER! AND THIS IS JUST A SAMPLE OF WHAT YOU'LL GET WHEN... HEY!
THE FLAMING FOOL WAS CAUGHT OFF-GUARD BY MY HIDDEN ESCAPE CHAMBER! I MUST GET TO MY CONTROL ROOM!

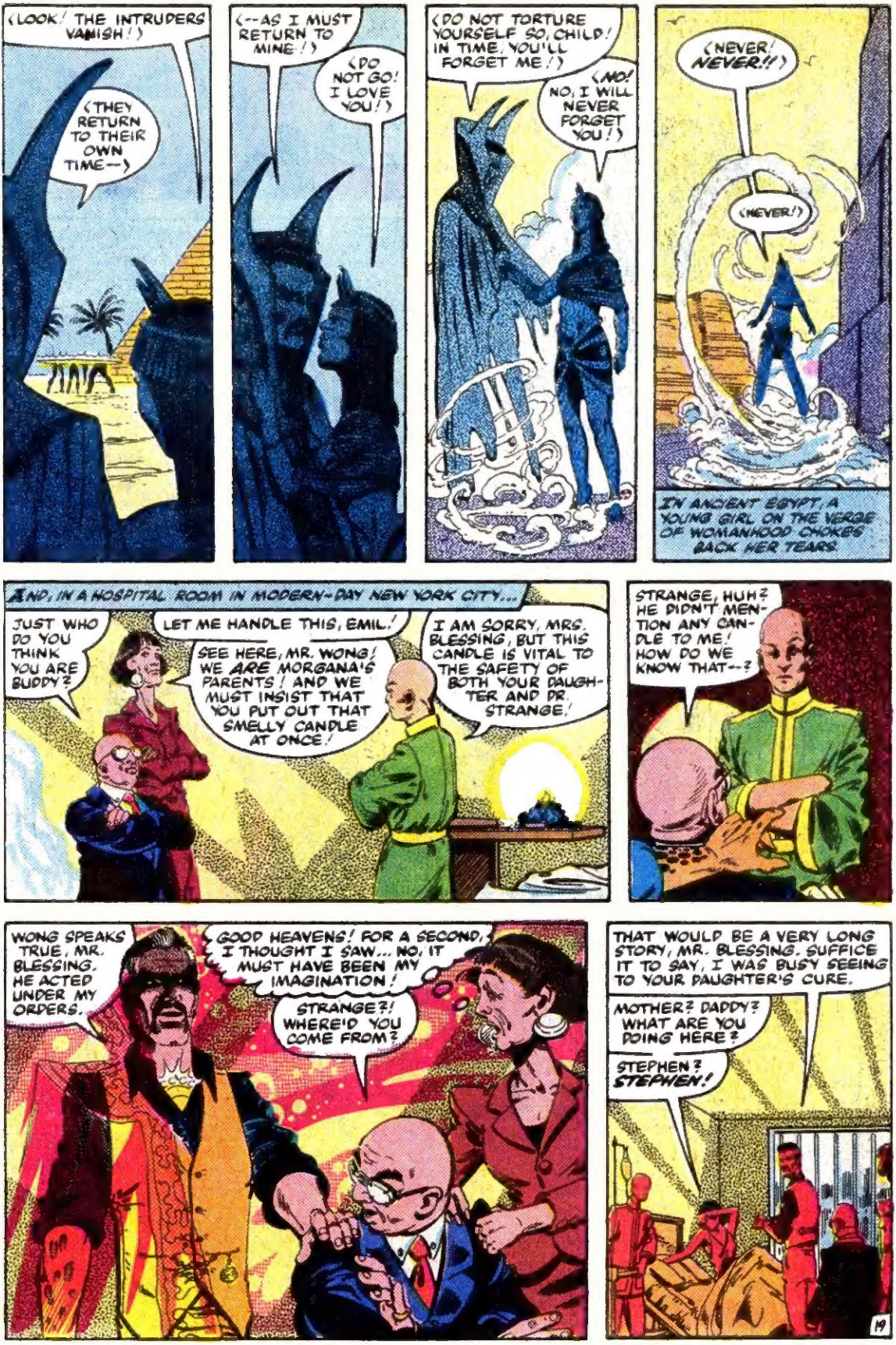

MEANWHILE, SUE HAS AGAIN USED THE AMAZING RAY GUN...
OHH, MY ACHIN' HEAD!
JOHNNY, NEVER MIND RAMA-TUT NOW! WE MUST FIND REED!


BUT, BEFORE THE ESCAPEES CAN LEAVE THE PALACE...
〈STOP THE INTRUDERS!〉
〈DEATH TO THE ENEMIES OF RAMA-TUT!〉
OH, DEAR! HOW MANY GUARDS DOES RAMA-TUT HAVE, ANYWAY?
CRACK
DON'T WORRY YOUR L'IL HEAD ABOUT THEM, SUZIE!
THE OL' THING WILL GIVE 'EM A NICE, BIG WELCOME!
MEANWHILE, THE PHARAOH'S HAND-MAIDEN HAS LONG SINCE MADE HER WAY ALONG THE UNDERGROUND PASSAGE, UNDER VERY SPECIAL GUIDANCE...
KLIK
〈THERE! THAT STONE SHALL UNLOCK THE CHAMBER WE DESIRE!〉
〈NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR YOU TO ACTIVATE THE PROPER SWITCHES AS I DIRECT YOU...〉
〈...AND ALL SHALL BE AS IT SHOULD!〉
NEVER HAVE I HEARD A VOICE SO COMPELLING, SO ASSURED! TRULY, I MUST BE BLESSED!
〈EH? ARISE, LITTLE ONE! I AM NO GOD, IF THAT'S YOUR THOUGHT! I AM BUT A MAN WHO HAS LEARNED HOW TO HARNESS CERTAIN FORCES.〉
〈THESE FORCES ARE WITHIN US ALL!〉
15


(INDEED, IT IS BECAUSE OF SUCH A FORCE THAT I HAVE FOUND YOU!)
(ME? YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR ME?)
(ONE MIGHT SAY I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR CENTURIES, LITTLE ONE. BUT NOW... OH, NO!)
WHAT THE DEVIL?!
MORE INTRUDERS?!
I'VE NO TIME TO WASTE ON YOU! THIS WILL KEEP YOU OUT OF MY WAY!
SNAP
REACTING TO THE SNAP OF HIS FINGERS, COMPLEX COMPUTER SYSTEMS ACTIVATE A BANK OF DEADLY, CRISS-CROSSING LASERS...
NO! BY HOGGOTH, I SHALL NOT FAIL AFTER ALL THIS!
(COME, GIRL!)
AS I SUSPECTED... THE DEATH-BEAMS DO NOT FOLLOW IF WE FLY AWAY FROM RAMA-TUT!
AS STRANGE ESCAPES WITH THE GIRL, THE FLOOR BEHIND THEM BEGINS TO MELT AND FALL AWAY...
...BUT NOT DUE TO ANY LASER!
SEE, REED? I TOLD YA THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO GET UPSTAIRS!
CAREFUL, JOHNNY! NO TELLING WHAT YOU'LL FIND UP THERE!
JUST SOME LASERS... MELTED 'EM DOWN REAL EASY! ALL CLEAR, GANG! COME UP AND JOIN THE PARTY!
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF CONTROL ROOM! BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF RAMA-TUT!
AND, WHILE THE F.F. SEARCHES FOR THEIR QUARRY...
16

--OUTSIDE, THE LATTER-DAY WIZARD PAUSES IN THE SHADOW OF THE PYRAMIDS.
AT HIS COMMAND, THE MYSTIC EYE OF AGAMOTTO FLIES FREE FROM HIS ENCHANTED AMULET, AFFIXING ITSELF TO HIS FOREHEAD IN PREPARATION FOR AN ALL-IMPORTANT SPELL!
BY THE ALL-WISE VISHANTI! LET THE SOUL-SHARD HALT HERE, AND RETURN TO ITS OWN TIME THAT NO LIFE NEED EVER FEAR!
FOR A SINGLE MILLI-SECOND, THE SOUL-SHARD MAKES CONTACT WITH THE RESTRAINING SPELL--AND IN THAT TINY FRAGMENT OF TIME, BOTH THE DOCTOR AND THE GIRL EXPERIENCE THE COLLECTIVE MEMORIES OF HUNDREDS UPON HUNDREDS OF LIFETIMES!

AND THEN...
IT IS DONE.
POOR GIRL! IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR HER IT WAS NEARLY TOO MUCH FOR ME!
BUT ONE MYSTERY AT LEAST HAS BEEN SETTLED IN MY MIND. NOW I KNOW WHY MORGANA BLESSING WAS ABLE TO SEE MY INVISIBLE ASTRAL FORM WHEN FIRST WE MET.
IN THE OVERALL SCHEME OF THINGS, I HAD ALREADY MET HER IN FOUR OF HER PAST LIVES--AND SHARED HER KARMIC SPIRIT VIA THIS SPELL. WE BECAME LINKED THROUGH TIME.
EXTRA-ORDINARY!
THEN, USING SKILLS HE ONCE EMPLOYED AS A DOCTOR OF MEDICINE, STEPHEN STRANGE BRINGS THE GIRL AROUND...
(EASY, MY DEAR. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER OF YOUR... EXPERIENCE?)
(PEOPLE... SO MANY PEOPLE! THEY WERE... ME! AND YET, THEY WEREN'T!)
(AND YOU WERE WITH ME! I... I...)
(...I LOVE YOU, MY LORD.)
(HUSH, LITTLE ONE! IT IS NOT MEANT TO BE! I AM NOT OF YOUR WORLD!)
(BUT... WHAT OF THE NEXT WORLD... THE NEXT LIFE? MY PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT--!)
HOWEVER, BEFORE THE GIRL CAN FINISH...
EH?
BW
SH
AND...
AH, THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE WELL, I SEE! THAT MISSILE NO DOUBT CONTAINED RAMA-TUT!
AND UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN, THAT CONTROLLED EXPLOSION HAS JUST DESTROYED THE LAST TRACES OF THE TIME-TRAVELER'S REIGN. INGENIOUS!
BOOM


(LOOK! THE INTRUDERS VANISH!)
(THEY RETURN TO THEIR OWN TIME--)
(--AS I MUST RETURN TO MINE!)
(DO NOT GO! I LOVE YOU!)
(DO NOT TORTURE YOURSELF SO, CHILD! IN TIME, YOU'LL FORGET ME!)
(NO! NO, I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU!)
(NEVER! NEVER!!)
(NEVER!)
IN ANCIENT EGYPT, A YOUNG GIRL ON THE VERGE OF WOMANHOOD CHOKES BACK HER TEARS.
AND, IN A HOSPITAL ROOM IN MODERN-DAY NEW YORK CITY...
JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE BUDDY?
LET ME HANDLE THIS, EMIL!
SEE HERE, MR. WONG! WE ARE MORGANA'S PARENTS! AND WE MUST INSIST THAT YOU PUT OUT THAT SMELLY CANDLE AT ONCE!
I AM SORRY, MRS. BLESSING, BUT THIS CANDLE IS VITAL TO THE SAFETY OF BOTH YOUR DAUGHTER AND DR. STRANGE!
STRANGE, HUH? HE DIDN'T MENTION ANY CANDLE TO ME! HOW DO WE KNOW THAT--?
WONG SPEAKS TRUE, MR. BLESSING. HE ACTED UNDER MY ORDERS.
GOOD HEAVENS! FOR A SECOND, I THOUGHT I SAW... NO, IT MUST HAVE BEEN MY IMAGINATION!
STRANGE?! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
THAT WOULD BE A VERY LONG STORY, MR. BLESSING. SUFFICE IT TO SAY, I WAS BUSY SEEING TO YOUR DAUGHTER'S CURE.
MOTHER? DADDY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
STEPHEN? STEPHEN!
19

OH, STEPHEN, YOU SAVED ME! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DID EXACTLY-- EVERYTHING IS SUCH A BLUR -- BUT I KNOW YOU SAVED ME! I JUST KNOW IT!
WELL, I AM A DOCTOR, AFTER ALL, MS. BLESSING!
YOU SHOULDN'T EXCITE YOURSELF SO!
I'M SURE DR. FINCH HERE WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE ANYTHING ELSE WHICH DEVELOPS.
MORGANA! COVER YOURSELF!
NICE MEETING YOU, DOC-- WE'LL HAVE TO GET TOGETHER FOR A GAME OF GOLF!
YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT. I SUGGEST YOU GET PLENTY OF REST!
BUT, STEPHEN...
I'M AFRAID IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I PLAYED, SIR.
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME--?
SO... ONCE AGAIN, DR. STRANGE HAS PRESERVED HUMANITY!
AND I... I AM... BEHOLDEN TO HIM.
BUT I DON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH YOU GNITS ANY LONGER!
YEOOW
THIS PERSONAL NIGHTMARE, AT LEAST, IS OVER!
BE AT PEACE FOR NOW, STEPHEN STRANGE! YOUR DAY WILL COME ...I SWEAR IT!
IN GREENWICH VILLAGE, DR. STRANGE REPRESSES A SHUDDER, AS HE STEPS FROM THE RAINY STREETS--
20

--TO THE RELATIVE WARMTH OF HIS SANCTUM SANCTORUM.
CLEA? WHY THE BAG?
MY LOVE IS NOT WORTHY OF YOURS, STEPHEN. I HAVE SEEN THE LOVE WHICH SHOULD BE YOURS...
...MORGANA'S LOVE... AND I CANNOT DENY IT TO YOU. TO DO SO WOULD MEAN THAT I NEVER LOVED YOU AT ALL.
SO, I'M LEAVING... GOING HOME TO THE DARK DIMENSION.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! CLEA, I LOVE YOU! YOU MEAN MORE TO ME THAN ANY WOMAN ON EARTH! AND AS FAR AS NOT BEING WORTHY... THAT'S RUBBISH!
IT'S GOOD OF YOU TO SAY THAT, STEPHEN, BUT IN MY HEART OF HEARTS, I KNOW THAT MY LOVE IS LACKING IN COMPARISON TO HERS. EVEN MY DISCIPLEHOOD IS A SHAM!
LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE THIS DIMENSION'S SORCERER SUPREME! DOES IT MAKE SENSE FOR YOUR DISCIPLE TO BE THE NATIVE OF ANOTHER REALITY?!
NO!
CLEA!..
I AM NOT OF THIS WORLD, STEPHEN! I BELONG ELSEWHERE!
WITH DORMAMMU GONE FROM THE DARK DIMENSION, PERHAPS MY WORLD CAN BE SAVED. I'LL GO BACK TO LEAD THE REBELLION, AS I WAS ASKED.
CLEA, YOU'RE OVERWROUGHT... YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! IF YOU WISH, I'LL RETURN TO THE DARK DIMENSION WITH YOU!
NO, DEAREST... IT IS NO LONGER YOUR FIGHT. YOUR PLACE IS ON THIS WORLD...
...WITH MORGANA. GO TO HER!
FAREWELL, STEPHEN! IF, FROM TIME TO TIME, YOU SHOULD THINK OF ME... KNOW THAT I LOVED YOU AS BEST I COULD!
CLEA! WAIT!
PLEASE, STEPHEN! THIS IS SOMETHING SHE HAS TO DO... DON'T MAKE IT HARDER FOR HER!
CLEA, PLEASE--!
I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU...
21

...MY LOVE...
NO! CLEA, NO!!
don't leave me...
MASTER?
THE END